15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

133 the highest point is the Shillong Peak, 6,445 feet, covered with scrub,
137 grassland and forests (mostly oak, rhododendron and pine trees). The Jaintia Hills are considerably lower, with much flat land; wet paddy cultivation is practised here and there where sufficient water is available. From the plateau of the Khasi Hills northwards to the Assam Brahmaputra Valley there is a gentle slope covered with thick jungle, and the southern slope towards the Bengal plain is very steep, so that

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Map. 6. — *Map of the Khasi-Jaintia Hills with Classification of Groups.*

139 the upland remained practically cut off from the plains until the
137 middle of the 19th century.

Following the geographical and ecological differences, the five
619 groups are segregated into fairly well-defined cultural areas, each developing a different economy and dialect:

[191]
[24]

1. The Jaintia[1] — associated mostly with wet rice cultivation.
2. The Khasi (upland Khasi) — practise potato cultivation with small-scale rice and maize cultivation.
3. The War — inhabit the southern slope of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills (they are called geographically the Khasi War and the Jaintia War). Due to the heavy rainfall, the soil is the most fertile in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The Khasi War practise jhooming of which the main yield is millet. In the lower part of this area, pan-leaf, betel-nut, and orange gardens are cultivated. The Jaintia War practise wet rice cultivation like most of the Jaintias, as well as pan-leaf cultivation.

1. They are called also the Syntong or the Pnar.

Upto!l now the main sources of forest revenue is the district are timber, limestone, lac, bay leaf and elephants. 13

2.6 **Agriculture**.—The greater proportion of population of the district subsist on agriculture. The staple crops raised in the district are wet and dry rice, various kinds of millets, maize, potatoes, pineapples, oranges, arecanut, betel-leaf and bay leaf. To a smaller extent they grow in the gardens round their houses vegetables, pulses and occasionally sugarcane. 24

2.6.1 **The main crops : Rice**.—While wet rice is grown in the valleys with which the hills are intersected, dry rice is grown on the hill sides. Highland rice is seldom grown twice running on the same spot for after one crop the soil is exhausted and a fallow period of four to five years is usually allowed. Jowai subdivision is predominantly a wet rice producing area. In Shillong subdivision main wet rice pockets are the Khasi area stretching upto the sung valley and the northern portion of the plateau, the Mylliem state, the south-western portion of the district and the southern plain portion of the district adjoining East Pakistan. Dry rice is grown more or less throughout the district. While Jowai subdivision can claim self sufficiency in rice, Shillong subdivision is a deficit area and the people in this subdivision particularly those in the southern portion (border area) of the district have to depend on supplies from outside. Though there is no reliable statistics on the area under rice, a rough estimate is given elsewhere in the land utilisation table. 243

Maize and millet.—The two important food crops of the district grown more or less throughout the district.

Potatoes are extensively grown in the higher slopes and in the lower land which are well drained. Generally two crops of potatoes are raised annually in the district. In respect of production and export of potato this district occupies the topmost position in the State of Assam. 244

Oranges, betel leaf and arecanut are most extensively grown in the southern face of the hills, i.e. all over the border areas. Oranges are also grown in Barnihat areas, in the southern portion of the district. Orange and betelnut plantations extend from the foot of the hills to a height of about 1100 feet and are carried up the ravines which mark the southern face of the high plateau. The district is an important producer of Bay-leaf which is abundantly found in the border areas of the district. Other valuable cash crops of the district are black pepper, turmeric, chillies, ginger, pineapple and various other fruits. 245

2.6.2 **Agricultural seasons**.—For wet rice, the lands which are naturally irrigated by virtue of their very location, are ploughed or hoed by about the middle of February and seed sown in May or June. Harvesting takes place in October and November. For dry rice, the land is hoed by about the middle of September, the soils are collected into little heaps and burnt and by February the land is again hoed up and the seed sown in April - May. Harvesting goes 243

426 Of the total number of loans 61 per cent in Border area, 18 per cent in Project area and 29 per cent in General area were free of interest while rate of interest for 9 per cent, 30 per cent and 60 per cent respectively of the loans in the three areas were found to be 10 per cent or more per annum which in cases ranged upto 200 per cent.

241 434 592 10.8. Farm output of 67 per cent of the families in Border area, 56 per cent of families in Project area and 60 per cent of families in General area were less than Rs. 500. a year, while 6 per cent, 10 per cent and 1 per cent of the families in the respective area earned more than Rs. 2,000.00 a year from their farms. Of the total number of farms fetching less than or Rs. 500.00 a year in Border area 33 per cent of them are medium sized farms and 4 per cent large sized farms, the corresponding proportions for Project area and General area being 21 per cent, 1 per cent, 17 per cent and 1 per cent.

24 433 10.9. In Border area the most important crops are oranges, betelnut, paddy, and betel leaf which respectively accounted for 31 per cent, 27 per cent, 19 per cent and 9 per cent of the total harvested area. In Project area paddy and orange are the most important crop which accounted respectively for 52 per cent and 3 per cent of the total harvested area. The most important crops in the General area are paddy and potato which respectively accounted for 61 per cent and 7 per cent of the total harvested area.

On the basis of data collected for all the villages investigated average yield per acre worked out at paddy 11.65 maunds, potato 21.61 maunds, oranges 3.77 lacs (3950 numbers) and betelnut 2.95 lacs (13960 numbers). These yield exhibited wide variation among the three areas.

434 592 10.10. Proportions of families with annual gross income of less than Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to less than Rs. 2,000, and above Rs. 2,000, were respectively found to be 49 per cent, 45 per cent and 6 per cent in Border area, 34 per cent, 60 per cent and 6 per cent in Project area and 41 per cent, 56 per cent and 3 per cent in General area. Average annual gross income per family worked out at Rs. 1,079.30 in Border area, Rs. 1,230.40 nP. in Project area and Rs. 860.36 nP. in General area which for predominantly agricultural and non-agricultural families respectively stood at Rs. 1,035.06 nP. and Rs. 1,341.91 nP. in Border area, Rs. 1,205.28 nP. and 1,500.36 nP. in Project area and Rs. 875.08 nP. and 780.05 nP. in General area. In all the three areas main contributors to family income were agriculture, service-profession-labour and trade amounting respectively for 44 per cent, 35 per cent and 15 per cent of the total average income in Border area, 37 per cent, 49 per cent and 9 per cent in Project area and 53 per cent, 36 per cent and 8 per cent in General area.

The net annual income per family in different income groups varied between Rs. 69 to 1,949 in Border area, between Rs. 119 to Rs. 3,569 in Project area and between Rs. 98 to Rs. 2,064 in General area. The average over all per family net annual income worked out at Rs. 881 in Border area, Rs. 991 in project area and Rs. 789 in General area and the same *per capita* at Rs. 221 in Border area, Rs. 216 in Project area and Rs. 193 in General area.

TABLE F-3

Yield rate of some important crops

Crop	Gross area harvested (acre)	Total yield (unit below)	Quantity consumed	Quantity value (Rs. P.W)	Quantity sold	Sale Value	Average yield per acre
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Baseline area :—							
a. Betel leaf	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17·15
b. Betel nut	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·22
c. Cassava	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9·77
d. Potato	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17·48
e. Paddy	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8·38
f. Millet	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·17
g. Tapioca	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·1
h. Yam	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1·14
i. Others	..	[illegible]	..	..	..	[illegible]	2·16
Total :		[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]	

TABLE F.3—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Project crops—							
a. Sunn hemp	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
b. Sann hemp	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
c. Cowpea	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
d. Potato	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
e. Paddy	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
f. Millet	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
g. Tapioca	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
h. Yam	..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
i. Others	..	[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]	—	[illegible]
Total		[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]	—	[illegible]

[redacted]